

Introduced by Senator Alquist

January 19, 2006

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 80—Relative to Arthritis Awareness.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 80, as introduced, Alquist. Arthritis Awareness.

This measure would recognize the need to create and foster a statewide arthritis awareness program, as prescribed, and to work to adequately fund the program in 2006. The measure would also proclaim May 2006 as Arthritis Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The success of our nation depends upon a
2 population that is healthy, reasonably free of pain, and
3 functionally independent throughout the lifespan; and

4 WHEREAS, Arthritis includes more than 100 diseases and
5 conditions affecting joints and connective tissues, such as
6 osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, Lyme disease,
7 and gout; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the federal Centers for Disease
9 Control and Prevention (CDC), arthritis is the leading cause of
10 disability in the United States, significantly affecting the quality
11 of life for more than 70 million Americans who experience its
12 painful symptoms; and

13 WHEREAS, According to the State Department of Health
14 Services' California Arthritis Atlas, a 2002 report on the impact
15 of arthritis statewide, more than 6.5 million California adults,
16 constituting 27 percent of the population, have arthritis; and

1 WHEREAS, Arthritis affects people in all age groups,
2 including as many as 285,000 children; and

3 WHEREAS, A disproportionate number of older Californians,
4 or an estimated 46 percent of those 45 years of age and older,
5 have arthritis or experience chronic joint symptoms, and over
6 one-half of all persons age 65 years or older have arthritis; and

7 WHEREAS, The State Department of Health Services
8 concluded, in its 2002 California Arthritis Atlas, that arthritis
9 costs the California economy an estimated \$32 billion annually in
10 medical expenses and lost wages; and

11 WHEREAS, Reports from the CDC and agencies in California
12 indicate that disability is more severe in underserved populations
13 that lack access to early diagnosis and treatment; and

14 WHEREAS, Existing public information and programs about
15 arthritis in California remain inadequately disseminated and
16 insufficient in addressing the needs of specific diverse
17 populations and other underserved groups; and

18 WHEREAS, Educating the public and the health care
19 community throughout the state about this devastating disease is
20 of paramount importance and is in every respect in the public
21 interest and to the benefit of all residents of the State of
22 California; and

23 WHEREAS, The California Arthritis Foundation chapters, in
24 partnership with other agencies throughout the state, have led the
25 development of a public health strategy, the National Arthritis
26 Action Plan, to respond to this challenge; and

27 WHEREAS, Arthritis is the leading cause of disability in the
28 United States, and is associated with poorer physical health and
29 poorer mental health; and

30 WHEREAS, An estimated 27 percent of Californians have
31 some form of arthritis; and

32 WHEREAS, Arthritis costs California nearly \$32 billion each
33 year, with an estimated \$23.2 billion spent on direct medical
34 care, and \$8.3 billion due to lost wages; and

35 WHEREAS, Arthritis is not necessarily an inevitable part of
36 the aging process; rather, effective methods exist to prevent,
37 delay the onset of, and manage the symptoms of, arthritis; now,
38 therefore, be it

39 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
40 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby recognizes the

1 need to create and foster a statewide program, in coordination
2 with the California Arthritis Foundation chapters, that
3 emphasizes a multiethnic approach, promotes public awareness,
4 and increases knowledge about the causes of arthritis, the
5 importance of early diagnosis and appropriate management,
6 effective prevention strategies, and pain prevention and
7 management; and be it further

8 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes the need to work in
9 2006 to adequately fund the statewide program, so as to allow for
10 the development and dissemination to patients, health
11 professionals, and the public, of educational materials,
12 information on research results, available services, and strategies
13 for prevention and control, and for the adaptation of this material
14 to the appropriate languages and reading levels of medically
15 underserved, ethnically diverse communities; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That the Legislature proclaims the month of May
17 2006 as Arthritis Awareness Month; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
19 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.